

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Sixth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.5% (1,761) reside in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (335) of Sixth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 77.1% of admissions from the Sixth Middlesex Representative District were male and 22.8% were female.
- Over 63.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 71.0% of admissions were white non-Latino, 11.6% were black non-Latino, 13.2% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 3.8% were other racial categories.
- 62.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.2% were married, and 15.1% reported not to be married now.
- 26.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 52.7% completed high school, and 20.8% had more than high school education.
- 30.4% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 39.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

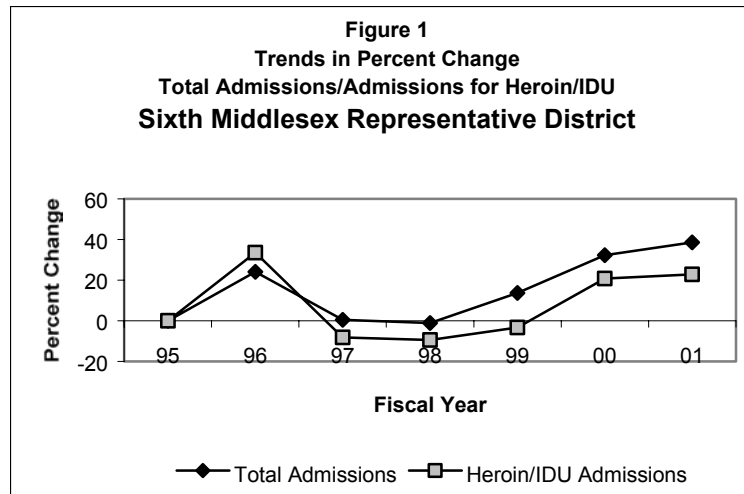
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Sixth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,271	936	247	504	243	505	356
FY '96	1,577	1,175	404	623	353	644	506
FY '97	1,278	960	323	484	267	446	345
FY '98	1,257	888	279	387	220	432	347
FY '99	1,446	1,086	394	440	302	477	355
FY '00	1,682	1,202	404	434	283	583	457
FY '01	1,761	1,292	433	437	283	614	444

- Since decreasing in FY 1998, admissions from Sixth Middlesex Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1998 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 45%, marijuana by 55%, cocaine by 13%, crack by 28%, and heroin use by 42%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Sixth Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 38.6% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 23%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixth Middlesex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	53.4 %	30.1%	5.6%	4.5%	2.9%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, marijuana and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and cocaine was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000